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FRANK L. HOOBS, MANAGER

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The House And The Speakership

Representative W. W. Harris struck the key-note of the situation, in the interview with him published in The Star yesterday, when he said that the great point in the selection of a Speaker of the House was to get a man, who, with reasonable

support from the House, would push work along so that a sixty day session would be a possibility. To become Speaker of the House of Representatives is a laudable ambition, and it is neither a matter of discredit, nor an occasion for criticism that any member of the House should desire the honor. But fortunately there are not as many avowed candidates as there are members, hence there is still opportunity for discrimination and the weighing of reasons for selection. Either from motives of modesty, lack of desire, or feeling that such an ambition in them at this time would be hopeless, there is a very large majority of the members of the House who are not candidates for the Speakership. There are enough candidates to afford abundant opportunity for choice, and for a consideration of relative merits, and of the possession by the different men of the qualifications which are desired. Whether a wise choice is made will depend on whether the members of the House have a correct appreciation of what is required in the Speaker's chair, and then whether they exercise correct judgment in selecting for these qualities.

If Representative Harris' criterion of what is needed shall be taken as a guide, and a choice in consonance with it be made, the probabilities are that the Territory will have no occasion to be dissatisfied.

Sixty days seems to be, in the opinion of the American public, either as long a session of a legislature as is ordinarily needed, or it is as long as the American community can ordinarily stand. For in a large proportion of the states there is some sort of gauge or check on the legislature after sixty days have expired. Congress thought it was long enough for Hawaii, and limited the sessions of the legislature to that period with certain provisions that would allow of a longer session, if it were readily needed. The first Territorial legislature, as was generally believed at the time, deliberately played for a longer session. But perhaps it didn't; perhaps it was only because it was known as the banderlog legislature that it was thought that it did.

But this must be admitted, that there was and still is a good deal of legislation needed to make thoroughly logical and consistent our laws, as we have received them from previous forms of government, with what they ought to be under our present form. At the same time it should be borne in mind that it doesn't all have to be done at once, and indeed cannot all be done at once. But an honest determination on the part of the members of this, the third legislature of the Territory, to do the really important legislative work necessary, within the sixty days, and then adjourn, will make it a great deal easier to do it. It will keep out a large number of schemes of pure graft. It ought to concentrate effort from the beginning on the important legislation to the exclusion of the minor and less important. It will assist to crystallize public opinion on the possibility and advantage of it.

If the members of the House really intend to do their work in sixty days, they ought to plan for it right from the beginning, and the first plan should be the selection of a Speaker who will do the most, without neglecting other things to bring this about.

Kansas And Human Density

The proposal of the Kansas legislator in framing his bill for short term contracts of marriage—ten years for instance, was at first thought to be a joke. But it now turns out that the author is really a Kansan and therefore thoroughly in

earnest. It might be expected that the suggestion of such a thing, which grew out of the very general discussion that has been going on the country over on the subject of divorce and remarriage, would stir somebody in Kansas up to some sort of foolishness. Kansas has a reputation of that kind to maintain. Dooley was the first, or among the first to dish up the suggestion in a humorous vein, but it was thought that when he got through with it no one would be dense enough to take the matter seriously. But there was someone, it seems, which only proves the density in many ways, of the great reading, American public which goes on year after year reading the paragraphs' satires on foibles and follies and, pari passu, goes on following the foibles and committing the follies. And so it may be that Kansas was created to show us, by striking example, how many kinds of foolishness is within the capacity of the human mind.

But the Kansas man with his short term, renewable marriage contract bill, as the life insurance companies would probably describe it, having been found out to be really in serious earnest, it is probably up to a whole lot more people all over the country to demonstrate that they were born without a sense of humor, and have acquired none since, by organizing great movements to throttle this Kansas monstrosity, instead of letting it die a natural death. Already there are beginning to appear in some of the mainland papers, articles and editorials to prove that the policy proposed is a blow aimed at the home and the family circle. So possibly it might be if it were a blow that could ever be delivered. But that's just it. If let alone it would die unobserved. But pushed to the front by opposition, brought to the stake and surrounded by the fagots, it becomes a martyr, and the seed of a lot of other follies.

Even the San Francisco Call thus discourses on it in solemn, unblinking fashion:

"Many say it will put an end to divorce. This is not so. A divorce is the judicial dissolution for cause of a marriage contract. The proposed law will establish automatic divorce. It will make divorce practically universal. Viewed from the standpoint of morals and public policy, the law is a practical dissolution of all family ties and an abolition of the home life. It invites the exaggeration of petty differences and bickerings, and makes unnecessary that exercise of patience, philosophy and morality upon which the family relation depends. It degrades that relation to the level of the beasts that perish, and destroys the repose and confidence and certainty so necessary in the right rearing of children. We doubt the capacity of a State to enforce such a law. All contracts are judicially reviewable to test their conformity to good conscience and public policy. These have dictated the permanency of the marriage contract, making it dissoluble only for such reasons as the divorce laws define as proper cause for its termination. We cannot believe that a limited contract would be held by the courts as of superior sanctity to those temporary and immoral relations which courts have always frowned upon. The good of the state depends upon the permanence and virtue of the domestic relations of husband and wife, parent and child. The evil of divorce is that it interrupts this permanency and makes temporary those relations which are needful to the perfect home as the foundation of the perfect state."

And all of this is said, forgetful of the fact that the human race started with considerably less ideal notions of the marriage relation than even the limited liability Kansan proposes, and yet it advanced in spite of that, to its present ideals. So that the world is neither likely to go back to its beginnings, nor necessarily go to the demitition bow-wows if it did.

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Robert de C. Ward, writing in The Popular Science Monthly, declares that the distribution of aliens among our farming population will have bad results. He says, in part:

"To scatter among our rural communities large numbers of aliens whose standards of living are such that they are willing to work for the lowest possible wage, is to expose our native farming population to a competition which is distinctly undesirable. In the corn belt of the West, as Prof. T. J. Carver has recently shown, the newer immigrants, because of their lower standards of living, have been able to put more money into land, buildings, and equipment than the native American farmer; and hence have an advantage in the struggle for existence. Scattering our alien population of the more ignorant races simply spreads more widely the evils which result from exposing our own people to competition with the lower classes of foreigners. Again, in the case of the agricultural distribution of Italian and other alien laborers through the South, while it is perfectly true that these aliens will supplant the negroes in many—probably in most—occupations, the effect will undoubtedly be to cause a migration of the negroes to the cities—a result which those familiar with the conditions of negroes now congested in cities can not fail to view with the greatest alarm. Lastly, the more widely we scatter the newer immigrants, the more widespread will be the effect of the competition with the lower grades of aliens in causing a decrease in the birth-rate among the older portion of our population. American fathers and mothers, as the late Gen. F. A. Walker first pointed out and as leading authorities have since reiterated, naturally shrink from exposing their sons and daughters to competition with those who are contented with lower wages and lower standards of living; and therefore these sons and daughters are never born. The agricultural distribution of immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe, and from Asia, will hasten still more the replacement of the native by foreign stock."

In San Francisco there is a firm known as F. M. Yorke & Co., which has a contract for repairing bitumen streets. But it has got into a controversy with the Board of Supervisors, and will neither give up its contract or go on with its work. The San Francisco papers are burdened with the talk back and forth.

There is a good deal in the suggestion that if the general run of the beef supplied to this market were better, this of itself would have a tendency to stimulate the consumption of beef.

No doubt E. K. Lilikalanani feels so lonesome as the sole survivor of a distinguished company, that he wants the crown lands to console himself with.

The worst of these troubles about contracts is that they entail such an amount of controversy.

Before Russia makes threats of invading China, she might be asked what she is doing in Manchuria, which is acknowledged to be Chinese territory.

In this correspondence about the Insane Asylum contract goes on much longer, the demand for a new asylum will become so pressing that it will become incumbent on the government to go ahead and build another asylum apart altogether from the one over which the trouble has arisen. There will be any number of candidates for cells.

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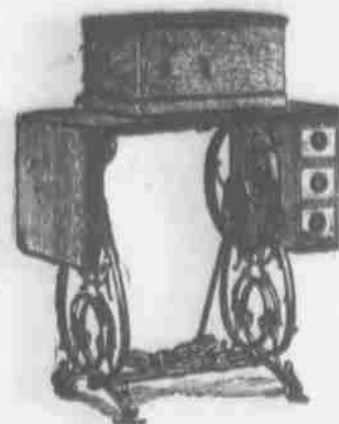
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